

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 26, as follows:

The specimen centrifuge unit 12 in the lower stage performs the same operation as that of the specimen centrifuge unit 11 in the upper stage. The operation of carrying in the specimen containers 1 whose specimens are to be centrifuged by the centrifuge unit 12 can be performed any time during a period of time except ~~when~~during the operation of carrying in the specimen containers 1 whose specimens are to be centrifuged by the centrifuge unit 11.